

POISONS REPLACE VODKA IN RUSSIA

"Drink at Any Price" Policy Brings Doctored Spirits and Death.

END OF THE WORLD SEEN BY FANATICS

War Believed Prelude to Destruction—Newspapers Disappear for Lack of Paper.

Special Correspondent to The Tribune:

Petrograd, Nov. 22.—The abolition of government driving traffic, which has suffered undoubted benefit on the country at large, has on the other hand produced deplorable effects on some elements of the community, namely, those who will have drink at all costs. The number of deaths from alcohol drinks resulting mainly from the consumption of denatured spirit has become alarming, and inquiry has shown that chemists and analogous tradesmen have been preparing drinks made up of this spirit (denatured for industrial purposes), made palatable with various pleasant flavoring, including eau de cologne.

The popularity of the new drink became promptly obvious. Some chemists in Petrograd were selling many gallons a day and people were waiting their turn to be served all day long. From other parts of the country it is reported that the results of this semi-clandestine traffic have been deplorable. From Nizhni-Novgorod word that a large quantity of wood spirit that came into the hands of the people by accident was drunk like wine, and by evening out of those taken to the hospital fourteen were dead, and the "Volgar" states that the results have been even more serious than reported.

On the Caspian Sea, at Astrakhan, drunkenness has developed alarmingly, and the number of drunken men met on the streets reminds one of the days when drink was openly sold under the government monopoly. Nearly every little shop in the town serves as a distributing centre, mostly run by emigrants from Persia, who are doing a roaring trade in wines, vodka, denatured spirit and other substitutes.

Alcoholic Poisons Sold.

Some food shops now deal entirely in what are termed alcoholic poisons. These likewise are held by Persians. Measures hitherto taken to reduce this plague have proved but feeble. The spirit is mainly brought from the Caucasus. In Petrograd and elsewhere the authorities are endeavoring to deal with the evil by very energetic decree, limiting the quantities of medicines containing spirit that may be sold, and subjecting all those infringing the law to a very severe punishment in the form of fine and imprisonment. The prohibition extends also to domestic production that contain spirits.

As a result of the war the popular spirit has got control of some circles, and it is reported in the "Lord of the Church," Moscow, that the present hostilities may be taken as indicating the near approach of the end of the world. The prophecy referred to ends with these words: "We are nearing the end of the world. The angel of death has taken up the sword, the judgment of God is being executed on us. Let us bow before Him with fear after having purified ourselves with confession and tears. If it please God to destroy the whole race of man, then let the will of God be done in all things. The world has long been a sink of iniquity, and it is time now for it to be destroyed."

Big Flax Harvest.

Reports on the economic situation of the country show that the flax harvest is expected to be somewhat like that of 1913, which yielded 31,813,000 poods; but, taking into account the reduced area sown compared with that year and the war conditions, it is assumed that the harvest this year will make about 28,000,000 poods.

According to reports received, the tobacco harvest this year in Russia has been smaller than last year, and smaller than last year's. The yield per desolate (one desolate equals 2.7 acres) has been greater than the average in most of the tobacco growing districts, and in only a few it has been under the average. There has been a considerably increased area planted in many districts, though in some there has been a decrease. It is remarked that there has been a large increase in the Caucausus, particularly in the Kuban territory.

The government contemplates consolidating several industries of the countries as monopolies, and it is now proposed to add to these the insurance business. A leading paper in Petrograd says that in view of the requirements of the Imperial Budget Committee the Ministry of the Interior has begun the preparation of reforms in the insurance business. It is said that the insurance data have been collected and that the government monopoly of this business would be chiefly valuable to the Fire Department. The military calculations show that such a monopoly would yield the treasury several tens of millions of rubles per annum and would make it unnecessary to effect reinsurance abroad, which would mean a more satisfactory state of affairs from that point of view in the country. It is felt, too, that the insurance business, if concentrated, would make it easier to handle the fire question and to bring the fire brigades and the like under more efficient control.

Newspapers Disappear.

Among the many inconveniences from which the country has suffered owing to the war, the most important has been a shortage of paper. Several newspapers on this account have disappeared altogether, while others have had to appear in reduced size and colors, again, mainly in Siberia, are appearing printed on packing paper, as is reported from Chabarovsk that the sale of these has ceased almost entirely. Poster paper is not to be had and "white news" comes in very heavily, while packing paper, on which the journals are in the mean

time printed, is by no means abundant on the market.

The port of Vladivostok has grown into great importance since the war began. A large variety of goods absolutely necessary to the country have had to be imported through Vladivostok instead of over the western frontier or by the Baltic or Black seas. The Customs Department has published a statement showing the business done for the first seven months of the year through Vladivostok. He is the torrent of his own destruction. He is, at times, more than natural, cataclysmic, heedless of the traditions, usages and artificialities of the footlights. He is of the play that inhibited his knowledge in the hard school of life, and if his diction be not faultless, he at least is speaking from the depths of his heart.

Temperamentally, the Yiddish actor is cast in an entirely different mould from that of his English confrere. He "lets himself go." Nothing can stem the torrent of his energy. He is, at times, more than natural, cataclysmic, heedless of the traditions, usages and artificialities of the footlights. He is of the play that inhibited his knowledge in the hard school of life, and if his diction be not faultless, he at least is speaking from the depths of his heart.

Second Farrar Film Tells Opera Secrets

"Temptation," with Fair Geraldine, Soon To Be Seen.

Secrets of the grand opera houses in European and American capitals form the basis for the new photoplay in which Geraldine Farrar is the star and which will be shown in January. Miss Farrar has created a sensation throughout the country as the star in the Lasky motion picture version of "Carmen." Her second photoplay is entitled "Temptation." Hector Turnbull is the author and Cecil B. De Mille the producer.

"Temptation" is a play of modern life on the operatic stage. Some of the incidents in it are taken from Miss Farrar's own career. Miss Farrar's climb to success on the operatic stage has been a succession of victories over many obstacles.

In "Temptation" the prima donna will appear as an American girl who, given her opportunity, makes the most of it. Her refusal to bend to the will of the impresario, however, places her under the ban of disapproval. She loses her place, but after weeks of persistent stargazing, "Temptation" is reprieved with melodramatic situations. Once its features is a photographic study of the faces in the faces of a gathering of people of the effect of real music. Theodore Roberts and Pedro de Cordoba head the supporting cast.

The English born Jew has no liking for the Yiddish play, would hardly understand it if he saw it. The foreign Jew is too poor, or too busy, to patronize the play other than on two nights in the week.

Now and again clamorous crowds will flock to hear some Yiddish artist from America—Thomaseshevsky, Jacob Adler (the Yiddish Irving), Malvina Lobel (the Yiddish Bernhardt). They pay higher prices, gaily see the dolls of New York East Side, rush hither and thither, from orchestra and foyers, to time for the early doors.

Similarly when, as rarely happens, there is staged a play dealing with

De Wolf Hopper As "Don Quixote"

Cervantes' immortal hero has reached the screen. In the new group of Triangle Plays which begin this afternoon De Wolf Hopper will make his first appearance in "Don Quixote," a feature destined to set a new dramatic standard, all the wealth of atmosphere, satiric comedy and romantic charm that characterizes the Spanish classic has been faithfully developed until the play may be classed as the rarest treat of the New York season.

Then there is "The Despoiler," with Frank Keenan, a particularly tense and dramatic piece that is a protest against the violation of women in war. It fairly makes your blood boil as you realize that such a thing may take place in any country.

As for comedy, "The Hunt," with Ford Sterling, is a swift-moving Keystone that produces more than its share of laughter.

Knickerbocker Theatre Broadway at 38th Street

Daily Matinees 25c and 50c. Evenings 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1. A few at \$2.

ALONE AT LAST Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

COMEDY Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

HOBSON'S CHOICE Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

THE UNCHASTENED WOMAN Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

SHUBERT Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

ALONE AT LAST Thurs. Night, Seats To-
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STOHERN Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

THE BLUE PARADISE Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

MANHATTAN Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

"MASKED MARVEL" Thurs. Night, Seats To-
morrow. Extra Matinee Thursday, Dec. 30.

"STRANGLER" LEWIS Thurs. Night, Seats To-
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PRINCESS Thurs. Night, Seats To-
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PLAYHOUSE Thurs. Night, Seats To-
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KATINKA Thurs. Night, Seats To-
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